

Response to the Final Office Action
Dated September 3, 2003

Appln. No. 09/674,688

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 (currently amended). A part-cylindrical pre-formed insulation module for insulating a component including:

an unstriated insulation layer with an inner surface for contacting an outer surface of the component to be insulated and comprising insulating material having fibres entirely sealed over said inner surface by a sealing agent, said fibres having no specific orientation relative to the module within said layer ~~by a sealing agent~~, said layer being substantially uniform in composition and density over a cross section of said layer, an outer surface and contacting surfaces;

a substantially non-fibrous, resilient cladding layer shaped to the component to be insulated and directly adhered to the insulation layer at the outer surface thereof; and

connection means disposed along the length of the body for hingelessly connecting with at least one further adjacent insulation module wherein said insulation and cladding layers of said module are disposed relative to each other such that, on connection to said further insulation module, insulation layers of said module and said at least one further module are brought into contact along said contacting surfaces of the insulation layers of the modules for insulating at least a portion of the component.

Claims 2-20 (canceled).

21 (previously presented). The module of claim 1 having first and second ends and a circumferentially extending bead extending about a circumference of said module at a distance from said first end thereof.

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22 (previously presented). The module of claim 21 having a circumferentially extending bead at said second end thereof.

23 (previously presented). The module of claim 21 wherein said insulation layer finishes flush with said cladding layer at said first end of said module.

24 (previously presented). The module of claim 23 wherein said cladding layer extends beyond said insulation layer at said second end of said module.

25 (previously presented). The module of claim 24 wherein said sealing agent forms a sealing film on said insulation layer.

26 (previously presented). The module of claim 1 wherein a channel extending along a length of said module forms said connection means.

27 (previously presented). The module of claim 1 wherein said module is semi-cylindrical and two beads extending along a length of said module on an outer surface of said module form said connection means.

28 (previously presented). The module of claim 1 wherein said module is semi-cylindrical and two diametrically spaced apart channels form said connection means.

29 (currently amended). A pre-formed insulation module system for insulating a length of pipe comprising first and second semi-cylindrical modules each having:

an unstriated insulation layer with an inner surface contacting an outer surface of said pipe and comprised of rigid fibrous insulating material having fibres entirely sealed over said inner surface by a sealing agent, said fibres

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having no specific orientation relative to the module within said layer by a sealing agent, said layer being substantially uniform in composition and density over a cross section of said layer and an outer surface and longitudinally extending contact surfaces; and

a substantially non-fibrous resilient cladding layer and directly adhered to said insulation layer at said outer surface thereof, wherein said first module has two diametrically spaced channels extending along its length and said second module has two beads extending along its length, said beads being accommodated within said channels to fasten said first and second modules together by interference fitting.

30 (previously amended). A pre-formed insulation module system as claimed in claim 29 for insulating a first length of pipe wherein said first and second modules have first and second ends and circumferentially extending beads being distanced from said first ends of said first and second modules on outward surfaces thereof said beads being accommodated within channels disposed on inward surfaces of second ends of said first and second modules of an adjacent insulation module system insulating a second length of pipe integral with and adjacent the first length of pipe such that said module systems insulating said first and second lengths of pipe are fastened together.

31 (currently amended). A pre-formed insulation module including:

an insulation layer having fibres sealed within said layer by a sealing agent and having an inner surface for contacting a component to be insulated and an outer surface; and

a substantially non-fibrous resilient cladding layer directly adhered to the insulation layer at said outer surface

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thereof wherein said sealing agent is an acrylic emulsion
extending entirely over said insulating layer.

32 (previously presented). The module of claim 31 being semi-cylindrical.

33 (previously presented). The module of claim 32 wherein said acrylic emulsion contains a flame retardant.

34 (previously presented). The module of claim 31 wherein said sealing agent forms a sealing film on said insulation layer, said film containing flame retardant.

35 (previously presented). The module of claim 34 wherein said flame retardant is alumina trihydrate.

36 (previously presented). The module of claim 34 wherein said flame retardant constitutes 60% by weight of said sealing film.

37 (previously presented). The module of claim 35 wherein said flame retardant constitutes 60% by weight of said sealing film.

38 (previously presented). The module of claim 35 wherein said sealing agent includes acrylic emulsion, alumina trihydrate and propylene glycol.